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Title: Need to provide more financial assistance for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (MACHILIPATNAM): Andhra Pradesh is one of the successful States in the country in achieving maximum results under SSA. Number of schools opened/upgraded is 7,810; number of children covered through bridge courses is 3,22,322; number of school buildings constructed so far is 4,153 with 5,776 additional classrooms, 4,000 toilets and drinking water in 4,261 schools. Dropouts rate has come down by 10% and enrolment and access has gone up to 98%. Of course, the retention level is low. To promote retention of girls, State Government is giving Rs. 50, Rs. 75 and Rs. 100 to girls studying in 8^{th}, 9^{th} and 10^{th} classes, along with Children Language Improvement Programme. Under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has allocated Rs. 240 crores in addition to GOI's allocation of Rs. 131 crores last year.

So, to make the SSA more effective, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is thinking of extending Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Upper Primary School and later to high school. As a result of the success of SSA in State, the movement of students in higher classes has gone up and there is a need to create infrastructure with the State Government's decision to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme to classes 6 and 7, it requires finances.

Hence, I request for consideration of the GOI to provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to fulfill its dream of becoming number one State in India in implementation of SSA.